A unit-wise viability report has since been prepared by NTC(HC) which is presently under consideration of the Government.

Stir by Textile Workers in Kanpur

1296. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of textile workers in Kanpur are up in arms to wage a relentless stir for revival of plants and payment of pending wages; and

(b) if so, the measure taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The textile mills of National Textile Corporation (NTC) and British India Corporation (BIC), including those located at Kanpur, have been facing curtailment of production activities due to acute shortage of working capital. The Central Government has, however, been extending budgetary support to NTC and BIC towards payment of salaries and wages. Due to budgetary constraints, there are at times delay in payment of wages and salaries to the workers and employees of NTC mills. In this context, the textile workers at several places including at Kanpur resorted to dharna, gherao and other types of agitation to press for immediate release of wage and slaaries for the months of November and December 1996. Payment of salary for these two months has since been released to the employees.

Modern Machinery and upgraded Technology for Garments Industry in Maharashtra

1297. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any scheme to equip the textile industry in Maharashtra with modern machinery and upgraded technology to increase country a share in international garments trade; and (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Interim Relief to workers of closed Textile Mills in Gujarat

1298. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have estab-lished any Fund/Scheme to provide interim relief to the workers of permanently or partially closed textile mills in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of workers likely to be covered under the Scheme;

(d) whether Government have any plans to re-open the closed textile mills in the State to save the interests of the workers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Government of India has established the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to workers of the permanently and partially closed textile mills in the country. Relief under the Scheme is paid at the rate of 75%, 50% and 25% of wage equivalent, in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year, respectively.

(c) 33,156 workers have benefited in case of Gujarat till date.

(d) and (e) Government has set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for their revival.